

Back: Vermiculated brown-grey and black (PM).  
Scapulars: Vermiculated and tinged with buff; outer edge of feathers black.  
Wings: Upper coverts olive with dark shafts; primary coverts and alula grey-brown; primaries grey-brown, paler on inner webs; speculum green with a purple sheen (PM); black proximally (P); leading edge formed by chestnut tips of greater coverts (P); broad white trailing edge; tertials brown-grey; axillaries white; wing linings creamy.

Legs and feet: Pale yellow with grey webs.

Measurements: Wing (min.) 274 mm.; bill (from feathers) 57, (depth at nares) 19, (width at nares) 22 mm; tail (total) 110, (centre/outer) 54, (centre/next) 5 mm; tarsus 120 mm.

*Discussion:* The above description shows that all the characters of the hybrid can be ascribed to males of the two parent species, with perhaps more Pintail than Mallard features expressed. The blue bill, vermiculated back, white belly, and slender build are the most obvious Pintail characters, while the green on the head, chestnut breast, and large size are the most strongly represented Mallard features. Hybrids between species of Anatidae have recently been used to trace relationships within the family (e.g. Sage 1966, Beer 1968), hybrid characters foreign to the parents and similar to other species being regarded as indicative of a close relationship between them. Since none of the features of this hybrid fall into that category nothing can be said of phylogenetic significance.

References:

- Beer, J. V. 1968. The tracheae of hybrid Anatidae. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 88: 4-15.  
Harrison, J. M. & Harrison, J. G. 1971. Notes on a further Pintail × Teal Hybrid. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 91: 28-32.  
Sage, B. L. 1966. A Chilean Teal × Red-crested Pochard. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 86: 50-54.

## Taxonomic history of *Schoutedenapus schoutedeni*

by R. K. Brooke

Received 14th April, 1971

Unfortunately I (Brooke 1971) did not make clear the taxonomic history of *Schoutedenapus schoutedeni* (Prigogine) 1960: Butokolo in the eastern Congo. I was preoccupied in arguing against White's (1965) view that it was a synonym of *S. myoptilus chapini* (Prigogine) and failed to make it clear that Hall & Moreau (1962), the first authors to discuss it after Prigogine (1960) had published his novelty, had placed it as a fourth race of *S. myoptilus* (Salvadori) and therefore recognized it as a valid taxon. As a result I did not discuss their view having implied that they did not recognize it at all.

The three known specimens of *S. schoutedeni* were collected in the range of *S. m. chapini* in October and November. They are males in non-breeding condition and apparently adults. Prigogine (1966) pointed out that *S. m. chapini* is in breeding condition in February and March and from July to September. Nothing is known of the time or place of breeding of *S. schoutedeni* and it may be that it is allopatric to *S. m. chapini*. Both *S. m. myoptilus* and *chapini* have lengthy north/south montane breeding ranges, particularly the former (Brooke 1971), and it is difficult to imagine which mountain range outside the range of *S. myoptilus* it frequents for breeding. I assume that the three east Congolese specimens are not vagrants from some quite other part of Africa. But even if the breeding range were known and were allopatric to that of

*S. m. chapini* I would probably still consider it a separate species primarily on account of the difference in the shape and proportion of the outermost rectrix in *S. schoutedeni*. This feather is much less elongate and emarginate than in adult *S. myoptilus* but much more so than in juveniles and immatures. Lack (1956) pointed out how important the shape and proportion of the outermost rectrix was in making sense of the many taxa assigned to *Apus* by authors. I find the same to be the case in *Cypsiurus* (Brooke in prep.). I therefore believe that it is more informative to treat *S. schoutedeni* as a full species pending receipt of further specimens and some data on its biology.

#### References:

- Brooke, R. K. 1971. Geographical variation and distribution in the swift genus *Schoutedenapus*. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 91: 25-28.  
Hall, B. P. & Moreau, R. E. 1962. A study of the rare birds of Africa. *Bull. Brit. Mus. Nat. Hist. Zool.* 8(7): 315-378.  
Lack, D. 1956. The species of *Apus*. *Ibis* 98: 34-62.  
Prigogine, A. 1960. Un nouveau martinet du Congo. *Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr.* LXII (1-2): 103-105.  
Prigogine, A. 1966. Note on Chapin's Swift. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 86: 1-5.  
White, C. M. N. 1965. *A revised check list of African non-passerine birds*. Lusaka: Government Printer.

## The splenius capitis muscle of swifts

by P. J. K. Burton

Received 25th March, 1971

In a recent paper, Brooke (*Durban Mus. Novit.* IX (2), 1970: 13-24) refers to a personal communication from myself to the effect that *M. splenius capitis* (a cervical muscle inserted on the skull) is of simple structure in his proposed sub-family Cypseloidinae and complex in his Apodinae. This statement is incorrect; it originated from a conversation during September 1969, when my work on *M. splenius capitis* was in a preliminary stage. This study has now been completed, and its results published (Burton, *Ibis* 1971: 19-28). The present note is intended to clarify the point raised in Brooke's paper in the light of these results.

Brooke's term "complex" applies to a condition of the pair of *MM. splenii capitis* which I have named the "cruciform origin". This condition is present in all members of the Apodiformes which I have examined, including the Trochilidae and Hemiprocnidae, as well as the Apodidae. I have dissected 11 species of Apodidae, from the genera *Cypseloides*, *Nephoecetes* and *Streptoprocne* (members of Brooke's Cypseloidinae) and *Collocalia*, *Hirundapus*, *Chaetura*, *Cypsiurus* and *Apus* (members of Brooke's Apodinae). Brooke's statement evidently arose from my remarks concerning *Streptoprocne zonaris*, which shows a less extreme form of the cruciform origin than other species of swifts examined. In this species, the anapophyses of the 2nd cervical vertebra (from which *M. splenius capitis* originates) remain distinct, whereas in the rest, they are fused with the neural spine to form a continuous ridge. However, *Cypseloides* and *Nephoecetes* resemble the genera which Brooke assigns to the Apodinae in this respect. It is worth mentioning that in the Hemiprocnidae, a similar difference was found within the single genus *Hemiprocne*; specimens of *H. comata* examined showed a similar condition to *Streptoprocne*, whereas in *H. mystacea*, anapophyses and neural spine are fused as in most Apodidae.